

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 HEW-06 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3940

STATE FOR CU/ARA; USIA FOR ILA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC (RESTREPO; MEJIA)

SUBJ: CU/ARA ASSISTANCE FOR RESTREPO AND MEJIA

1. DR. JORGE RESTREPO FONTALVO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL, AND DR. BRAULIO MEJIA, MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WILL ATTEND WHITE HOUSE SPONSORED SEMINAR ON DRUG PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, MAY 5-16 POST REQUESTS ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH PARTICIPANTS TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR THREE DAYS, MAY 19-21, TO CONSULT WITH U.S. NARCOTICS EXPERTS.

2. DR. RESTREPO AND DR. MEJIA ARE TWO KEY GOC OFFICIALS IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL IS COORDINATING BODY FOR COUNTRY'S PREVENTION REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, AND DR. RESTREPO IS PRIME MOVER OF COUNCIL. DR. MEJIA IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN COORDINATING NATIONAL REPORT ON DURG ABUSE IN COLOMBIA AND IN PUBLISHING MATERIALS FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS. BOTH OFFICIALS ARE YOUNG RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKERS AND ARE LIKELY TO MOVE INTO SENIOR GOC POSITIONS.

3. WHAT IS POSSIBILITY OF PARTIAL IV GRANT FROM FALL-OUT
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FUNDS? EXPENSES WOULD INCLUDE FIVE DAYS PER DIEM FOR

TWO PARTICIPANTS FROM MAY 17-21, INCLUDING WEEKEND, AND COST OF DIVERSIONARY TRAVEL TO INCLUDE STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON ON MIAMI-ALBUQUE-MIAMI TICKET WHICH SAODAP (SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE OF PRESEDENT FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION) IS BYING.

4. DR. RESTREPO SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH; INTERPRETER NOT NECESSARY.

5. POST REQUESTS FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED IN ORDER OF PRIORITY: AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE, S/NM; SOADAP DIRECTOR DUPONT; BILL PLACE, COORDINATION FOR LATAM, DEA; ALAN HANSEN, ILA, USIA; JEAN PAUL SMITH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRUG ABUSE, HEW ROCKVILLE, MD.; MARY WAMPLER, AID; REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL CLEARINHOUSE ON INFORMATION ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION; AND GEORGE BROWN, ARA NARCOTICS COORDINATOR.

6. IF SEASONAL DEMANDS MAKE PROGRAM COORDINATION BY CU DIFFICULT, BUT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, CANDIECE COWAN (SOCDAP) OR OTHER SAODAP REPRESENTATIVE COULD COORDINATE.

7. SINCE COLOMBIA HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN CONCENTRATE EFFORT IN FIELD OF REHABILITATION-PREVENTION, POST SEES THIS PROPOSAL AS TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY AND WOULD APPRECIATE ALL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE.
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